

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION
Meeting – December 21, 2020
MINUTES
*****Approved*****

Brian Mackie, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. on December 21, 2020 on a remote Zoom virtual meeting.

Present:

Commission Members:

William Fales
Victor Fitz
Karen Gray Sheffield
Robin Hornbuckle
Brian Mackie

Staff Members:

Jess Averill, Policy Analyst
Shalonna Banks, Departmental Analyst
Katherine Bennett, Assistant Attorney General
Michael Bobbitt, Secretary
Debi Cain, Director of Victim Services
Emily Ely, Claims Analyst
Tracy Hogan, Victim Rights Departmental
Technician
Jordan Kennedy, Outreach and Education Project
Coordinator
Gail Krieger, Staff Attorney
James McCurtis, CVSC Manager
Leslie O'Reilly, Program Specialist
Angela Povilaitis, Staff Attorney
Loryn Shafer, Departmental Analyst
Robert Spada, Staff Attorney
Janine Washburn, Compensation Program Manager

Introductions were made by the Commissioners members. Mr. Mackie provided an overview of the Crime Victim Services program and explained how the remote Zoom meeting would proceed.

Public Comment - No public comments.

Approval of Open Session Minutes - Mr. Fitz made a motion, supported by Ms. Gray Sheffield to approve the open session minutes from the November 16, 2020 meeting as written. The motion carried.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes - Ms. Gray Sheffield made a motion, supported by Mr. Fitz to approve the closed session minutes from the November 16, 2020 meeting as written. The motion carried.

Approval of Agenda - Dr. Fales made a motion, supported by Ms. Hornbuckle to approve the December 21, 2020 agenda as written. The motion carried.

Staff Report - Ms. Cain said Mr. McCurtis' written report provided an update on the status of the Michigan Compensation Assistance for Victims and SAFE (MiCAVS) project. She thanked Mr. McCurtis and Mr. Spada for reviewing the Michigan Victim Information Notification Everyday

(MI-VINE) contract. Mr. McCurtis said that issues which have arisen with the MI-VINE contract will be discussed further in a meeting with Appriss in early 2021.

Dr. Heather McCauley, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Michigan State University presented her research on victim's and survivor's perceptions of accountability, safety, justice and care seeking. The purpose of the community engaged needs assessment was to understand crime victim's perceptions of justice and care seeking to inform strategies for serving their multiple and nuanced needs in Michigan. It was a two-phase mixed method study which began with qualitative studies to have conversations with victims and survivors to understand their experiences.

Gail Krieger reviewed a report on Michigan Crime Data Mapping and Victim Services in the State of Michigan. The report provides an overview of crime victimization data in Michigan for the purposes of informing priorities and recommendations for crime victim services funded by the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Grants. Victimization categories included in the report are based on the federally identified priority areas. Statutorily, victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and underserved victims must each receive at least 10% of Michigan's VOCA allocation.

Leslie O'Reilly provided an overview on potential decrease in future VOCA funding. She reviewed the anticipated significant decrease in funding expected over the next several years. It is projected that grant funding may need to be decreased to the level of fiscal year 2017.

Rob Spada presented on Volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Michigan currently has Volunteer CASA programs in 28 of the 83 counties statewide. The presentation covered the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and how it applies to Michigan's Volunteer CASA funding. Data and statistics as well as strengths and areas of concern were also covered.

Report of the Members - None.

Unfinished Business - None.

New Business -

A. Appeals - None.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2020.

Dr. Fales made a motion, supported by Ms. Hornbuckle, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bobbitt